

# HB854 Statewide Housing Study

## Program Fact Sheet

### Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS/HIV (HOPWA)

Department of Housing and Community  
Development

**Note:** This fact sheet was created in October 2021. Program details can change regularly. For the most up-to-date information on this program and a program contact, please visit the link below:

[Link to program website](#)

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#### 01 Program goals

Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS/HIV (HOPWA) provides states and localities with the resources and incentives to devise and implement long-term comprehensive strategies for meeting the housing needs of low-income persons with Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and related diseases, and their families. Activities of primary importance are providing housing assistance and services that assist this population to maintain housing stability where they can maintain complex medication regimens and address HIV/AIDS related problems.

#### 02 Funding sources

The HOPWA program is funded entirely with federal funding from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

#### 03 Governance

DHCD grants HOPWA funds to eligible grantees (that operate outside the Commonwealth's Emergency Medical Services Authorities) based on a community-based application. Community-based

applications are accepted as part of the Homeless and Special Needs Housing (HSNH) grants application which includes HOPWA funding. DHCD will issue one-year contracts to HOPWA providers (sub-grantees) as a result of the HSNH application process.

#### 04 Population served

There are two basic elements of HOPWA eligibility:

- 1) Household has at least one person who has Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) or related diseases (Human Immunodeficiency Virus, that is, HIV infection). This includes households where the only eligible person is a minor. Medical verification of status is required; and
- 2) the household must be at or below 80 percent of Area Median Income (AMI).

#### 05 How program works

The Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) program is HUD funding dedicated to the housing needs of people living with HIV/AIDS. DHCD administers the program by granting funds to nonprofits and local governments to provide housing and services that benefit low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families. Eligible activities include Tenant-based Rental Assistance (TBRA), Short-term Rent, Mortgage, and Utility (STRMU) Assistance, Supportive Services, and Housing Information Services.

#### 06 Program history

The HOPWA program was authorized by the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 and revised under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992.

#### 07 Program highlights

- The program has consistently served over 200 households each year from 2016 to 2020.

- The majority of persons served in FY 2020 identified as male (52%), Black (61%), and between the ages of 31 and 50 (52%).